

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An occupant protection device located in a vehicle seat comprising: a receiving container for an airbag, wherein the receiving container is free of closure flaps and the opening of the receiving container is covered by a seat cover of the vehicle seat, [[and]]  
wherein the seat cover is fastened to a side wall of the receiving container so that, when the airbag is inflated with gas, the seat cover tears open in the region of the opening of the receiving container, and  
wherein an upper end of at least one sidewall of the container is bent away from the container opening such that a hook-shaped sidewall area is formed at the outside of the sidewall, the hook-shaped sidewall area comprises a hook opening that is directed away from the container opening.
2. (Currently Amended) ~~Occupant~~ The occupant protection device according to Claim 1, wherein the seat cover has a predetermined breaking point in the region of the opening of the receiving container.
3. (Currently Amended) ~~Occupant~~ The occupant protection device according to Claim 2, wherein the seat cover is fastened to the side wall in the region of the predetermined breaking point.
4. (Currently Amended) ~~Occupant~~ The occupant protection device according to Claim 2, wherein the predetermined breaking point is formed by a seam configured to tear.
5. (Currently Amended) ~~Occupant~~ The occupant protection device according to Claim 4, wherein the seat cover is folded over into the seat interior in the region of the tearing seam forming two adjacent hems, and wherein the adjacent edge regions of the hems are sewn together.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Occupant~~ The occupant protection device according to Claim 5, wherein at least one of the two hems is fastened to the side wall of the receiving container.
7. (Currently Amended) ~~Occupant~~ The occupant protection device according to Claim 1, wherein the receiving container is arranged in the vehicle seat in such a manner that the side wall is arranged essentially parallel to the backrest and the opening of the receiving container faces the upper end of the backrest.
8. (Currently Amended) ~~Occupant~~ The occupant protection device according to Claim 1, wherein the seat cover is fastened to the side wall of the receiving container which faces the vehicle occupant.
9. (Currently Amended) ~~Occupant~~ The occupant protection device according to Claim 1, wherein a plastic strip is provided for fastening the seat cover to the side wall of the container.
10. (Currently Amended) ~~Occupant~~ An occupant protection device ~~according to Claim 9~~ located in a vehicle seat comprising:  
a receiving container for an airbag, the receiving container is free of closure flaps and the opening of the receiving container is covered by a seat cover of the vehicle seat, and wherein the seat cover is fastened to a side wall of the receiving container so that, when the airbag is inflated with gas, the seat cover tears open in the region of the opening of the receiving container; and  
a plastic strip, the plastic strip being provided for fastening the seat cover to the side wall of the container, wherein one end of the strip is sewn to the seat cover and the other end of the strip is hooked to the side wall.
11. (Currently Amended) ~~Occupant~~ The occupant protection device according to Claim 1, wherein the fastening of the seat cover to the side wall is brought about by at least two hooks which are attached to the side wall and are hooked into holes in a hem of the seat cover.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Occupant~~ The occupant protection device according to Claim 1, wherein the fastening of the seat cover to the side wall is brought about by a snap-in strip into which snap-in hooks fastened to a seat cover snap.
13. (Currently Amended) ~~Occupant~~ The occupant protection device according to Claim 12, wherein the snap-in strip is fastened to the side wall.
14. (Currently Amended) ~~Occupant~~ The occupant protection device according to Claim 13, wherein the snap-in strip is fastened to the side wall via further snap-in hooks.
15. (Currently Amended) ~~Occupant~~ The occupant protection device according to Claim 1, wherein the seat cover is fastened to a low region of the side wall.
16. (Currently Amended) ~~Occupant~~ The occupant protection device according Claim 1, wherein a seat cushion is provided between the receiving container and the seat cover, and there is at least one predetermined breaking point in the seat cushion.
17. (Currently Amended) ~~Occupant~~ The occupant protection device according to Claim 16, wherein at least one hole is provided in the seat cushion as a predetermined breaking point in the seat cushion.
18. (Currently Amended) An occupant protection device, comprising: including an airbag stored in a container located in a vehicle seat, wherein the container includes an open end covered by a seat cover; and wherein the seat cover is connected to the container by a plastic strip, and  
wherein an upper end of at least one sidewall of the container is bent away from the open end such that a hook-shaped sidewall area is formed at the outside of the sidewall, the hook-shaped sidewall area comprises a hook opening that is directed away from the open end.

19. (New) The occupant protection device according to Claim 1, wherein the hook-shaped sidewall area is U-shaped in cross-section, an opening of the U-shape is directed away from the container opening.